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Message Text

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62
ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-10 SPC-03 IO-14 CPR-02 SY-10

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15

DRC-01 /112 W
---------- 018233
R 022021Z NOV 73
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4145
INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA
USUN NEW YORK 471
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

C O N F I D E N T I A L 7998

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, US, AR, UN
SUBJ: LOCAL PRESS SAYS PERON TO SEE NIXON -- ADDRESS UN

1. SUMMARY: LA OPINION IN FRONT PAGE STORY NOV 1 SAYS PERON WILL GIVE SPEECH AT UN BEFORE CLOSE OF CURRENT GA SESSION IN DEC. QUOTING "STATE DEPARTMENT" SOURCES, THE STORY ADDS THAT WHILE ON UN TRIP PERON WILL USE OCCASION TO HAVE A MEETING WITH PRESIDENT NIXON. END SUMMARY.

2. A NOV 1 FRONT PAGE LA OPINION STORY CLAIMS THATPRESIDENT PERON WILL TRAVEL TO NEW YORK BEFORE THE END OF THE CURRENT GA SESSION TO GIVE AN "IMPORTANT" SPEECH SETTING FORTH ARGENTINE VIEWS ON INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, ECONOMIC QUESTIONS AND ARGENTINA'S THIRD WORLD POSITION.

3. CITING STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS AS SOURCES, THE STORY CLAIMS THAT BOTH FOREIGN OFFICES ARE PRESENTLY STUDYING THE POSSIBILITY THAT PERON, WHILE AT THE UN, WILL HAVE A MEETING WITH NIXON. REPORTEDLY, BOTH MINISTRIES HAVE MATTER UNDER STUDY WITH THE REQUIREMENT OF REACHING CONCRETE DECISIONS BEFORE
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GA SESSION ENDS MIDDLE OF DEC. US "OBSERVERS" ARE QUOTED

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AS CONSIDERING THE NIXON/PERON MEETING AS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR EACH SIDE TO EXPALIN TO OTHER ITS EXPECTATIONS FOR THE LA AREA AND FOR PERON TO OUTLINE HIS VIEWS ON WHAT US POLICY IN AREA SHOULD BE IN CONTEXT OF NEW CONTINENTAL SITUATION. FOR US WILL BE OPPORTUNITY TO DEMONSTRATE THAT IT HAS NO "FAVORITES" IN LA", AS KISSINGER EXPLAINED TO VIGNES.

4. IN NOV 2 LA OPINION RESPECTED JOURNALIST HEIBERTO KAHN FOLLOWS UP NOV 1 STORY WITH THINK PIECE ATTEMPTING TO PLACE PERONS US TRIP INTO GLOBAL CONTEXT OF GOA FOREING POLICY. (COMMENT: IN RECENT WEEKS LA OPINION HAS ACHIEVED SEVERAL SCOOPS ON FOREIGN POLICY STORIES: POSSIBILITY KAHN PIECE IN-SPIRED BY FM SOURCES CANNOT BE DISCOUNTED.) KAHN BEGINS BY NOTING THAT REFUSAL OF GOA TO DENY NOV 1 LA OPINION ARTICLE VIRTUALLY CONFIRMS FACT THATTHE TRIP IS ON. THE BASIS FOR TRIP WAS LAID, ACCORDING TO KAHN, BY VIGNES
SUCCESSFUL EFFORTS TO GIVE DYNAMISM TO GOA FOREIGN POLICY, WHILE ADHERING TO PERONS DIRECTIONS TO AVOID INFLEXIBLE POLICIES.

5. DYNAMISM OF GOA FOREIGN POLICY IS SEEN IN ACTIVITIES AN-TICIPATED IN NEXT FEW MONTHS:FIRST, THE VISITS OF PRESIDENT BANZER OF BOLIVIA (ALREADY SET FOR NOV12) AND DE FACTO PANAMANIAN LEADER OMAR TORRIJOS. SECONDLY, GOA ANTICIPATES SIGNING TREATY WITH PARAGUAY TO BEGIN HUGE HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT ON PARANA (YACUTA-APIPE) AND AGREEING TO DEFINITIVE BORDER SETTLEMENT WITH URUGUAY ON RIO DE LA PLATA. (COMMENT: VISITS BY LA LEADERS PROVIDES FINE PUBLIC SETTING TO GIVE GOA FOREING POLICY APPEARANCE OF MOVEMENT THOUGH THE PRACTICAL CONTENT MAY PROVE TO BE SMALL. LATTER TWO ITEMS ARE IMPORTANT GOA FOREING POLICY OBJECTIVE, THOUGH PERHAPS NOT AS NEAR TO SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION AS ARTICLE INDICATES.)

6. KAHN STORY COMPARES NIXON, A CONSERVATIVE, WHO COULD UNDER-TAKE A TRIP TO CHINA WITHOUT AROUSING US SUSPICIONS, TO PERON WHOSE ATTITUDE TOWARD THE BIG POWERS AND HIS WELL KNOWN "THIRD POSITION" PLACES HIS US POLICY MOVE EQUALLY ABOVE LOCAL USSPICIONS. KAHN CLAISM IT WILL NOT EVEN OCCUR TO PEOPLE THAT PERONS TRIP COULD AFFECT THE INDEPENDENCE OF GOA POLICY.

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7. IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT KAHN TIES GOA SEARCH FOR DYNAMIC FOREIGN POLICY OF DIALOGUE AND NEGOTIATION TO VIGNES DECISON TO FOREGO TRIP TO BOGOTA FOR LA FOREING MINITERS MEETING. (SEE SEPTEL). (THIS LEAKAGE AND COMPARISON OF NIXON CHINA POLICY TO PERONS OPENING TO US SEEM FURTHER CLUES THAT FM INSPIRED STORY).

8. ACCORDING TO KAHN, VIGNES WILL ACCOMPANY PERON TO NEW YORK

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HEADING UP A "SPEICAL" GROUP WHOSE PURPOSES ARE NOT DEFINED.
FURHER HE STATES THAT THE NIXON/PERON MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE
IN NEW YORK RATHER THAN IN WASINGTON. (COMMENT: STRANGE ASPECT
TO THIS DEVELOPMENT IS USE OF ALLEGED STATE DEPT SOURCES FOR
BREAKING NEWS OF POSSIBLE PERON VISIT. (EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE
ANY LIGHT DEPT COULD THROW ON SOURCES.) AS TO GOA IT WOULD SEEM
THAT IF AS PROBABLE STORY "LEAKED" BY FM THE HOPE IS THAT
IT WOULD HELP SMOKE OUT US INTENTIONS RE TOP LEVEL MEETING.
SIGNIFICANTLY BOTH GENERAL PRESS PLAY AND MOVE IMPORTANTLY
LA OPINION GIVE MUCH GREATER WEIGHT TO POSSIBLE NIXON VISIT
THAN TO A GA SPEECH BY PERON.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BUENOS07998
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BUENOS AIRES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731159/aaaabrkz.tel
Line Count: 127
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15-Jan-2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <06-Feb-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LOCAL PRESS SAYS PERON TO SEE NIXON -- ADDRESS UN
TAGS: PFOR, US, AR, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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